

Determination 4/2014

Background and Reasons

On 15 October 2013, the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) handed down Determination 1/2013.

In response to Determination 1/2013, the Clerk of the Parliament developed the *Members' Remuneration Handbook* (the Handbook) as required under the *Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Act 2013* (the Act). The Handbook reflects the principles and decisions of Determination 1/2013 and replaced the *Members' Entitlements Handbook* and *Members' Office Support Handbook*.

The Handbook incorporated the definition of 'Parliamentary Business'. This definition was adopted from the previous *Members' Entitlements Handbook*.

Following Determination 1/2013 and the release of the Handbook, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly wrote to the Tribunal suggesting minor amendments to the definition of 'Parliamentary Business'. These amendments provide further clarity regarding parliamentary business related to a Member of Parliament's (MPs) responsibilities.

The Tribunal is therefore issuing Determination 4/2014 to clarify these issues.

To align with the new allowance system documented in Determination 1/2013, Determination 4/2014 is effective on 1 January 2014.

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Preamble

Determination 4/2014 is issued by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) under the *Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Act 2013* (the Act).

Determination 4/2014 supersedes those relevant parts of Determination 1/2013 and Determination 2/2013 relating to the definition of 'Parliamentary Business'.

Any inconsistencies between earlier Tribunal Determinations and Determination 4/2014 are to be resolved in favour of Determination 4/2014. Matters in earlier Determinations not addressed in this Determination are confirmed by the Tribunal and not amended.

All Tribunal Determinations must be read in the context of the relevant Background and Reasons.

Determination 4/2014 takes effect on 1 January 2014.

Definition of parliamentary business

'Parliamentary Business' is defined as:

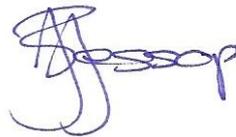
- a. Sittings of the Legislative Assembly or direct travel of the Member to or from such sittings
- b. A meeting of a parliamentary committee, or attending a meeting, conference or seminar or other business relating to such a parliamentary committee, of which he/she is a member or the member's direct travel to or from such an event
- c. Attendance at a function, conference, meeting or seminar representing a Minister, the Speaker, Leader of the Opposition or Leader of other Party on official business as such office-bearer or direct travel to or from such an event
- d. A meeting of the member's parliamentary or political party or policy formulation body, of its executive or of one of its committees or the member's direct travel to or from such a meeting
- e. Attendance at official government, parliamentary or vice-regal functions
- f. Attending to business (including attending conferences, functions, meetings or seminars), directly relating to a member's electorate
- g. Attending to business directly related to a matter of current parliamentary debate or addressing conferences, meetings and seminars to which a member has been invited in his/her capacity as a Member of Parliament
- h. Attending to business directly related to the subject matter of a parliamentary party committee to which the member belongs
- i. Attending to business related to the member's current responsibilities as an office holder (Speaker, Minister, Assistant Minister, Opposition Spokesperson or other parliamentary office holder)

- j. Studies, investigations, or inquiries on matters related to duties and responsibilities as a Member of Parliament (including addressing or attending conferences, meetings, functions or seminars) provided that the nature, official purpose, place and other relevant information is stated by the member to identify the parliamentary business involved
- k. Travel by Leader of the Opposition, Leader of a Recognised political party or Leader of a minor party in the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of campaigning during an 'official election campaign period'.

Date of Determination: 27 March 2014



**Professor Tim Brailsford
Chair**



**Ms Joanne Jessop
Member**



**Mr David Harrison
Member**